PINK AUCTION HELPS RAISE AWARENESS
ASA/USA SOFTBALL DONATES $4,000 TO SUSAN G. KOMEN FOR THE CURE®

ASA/USA Softball donated $4,000 to Susan G. Komen for the Cure® of Central and Western Oklahoma on Saturday, October 27 following the Race for the Cure in Oklahoma City. The money, raised by an eBay auction of pink items worn and used by the 2012 USA Softball Women’s National Team athletes during the World Cup of Softball presented by Lumber Liquidators, brings USA Softball’s five year donation total to $60,900. USA Softball donated $25,000 to the foundation in 2008, $12,500 in 2009, $13,000 in 2010 and $6,400 in 2011.

“ASA/USA Softball is proud to be making our fifth consecutive ‘Pink Out’ contribution to Susan G. Komen for the Cure® of Central and Western Oklahoma’s mission to find a cure for breast cancer,” said ASA/USA Softball Executive Director Ron Radigonda. “Breast cancer is a disease that has affected many of the individuals involved with our organization in one way or another. We remain committed to raising awareness not only through the USA Softball Women’s National Team but at ASA events throughout the country.”

The USA Softball Women’s National Team donned pink uniforms in a “Pink Out” game during the World Cup of Softball in Oklahoma City to honor breast cancer survivors and create awareness for breast cancer research. In September, more than 20 items went up for bid on eBay, including not only the game worn jerseys of the 19 National Team athletes, but also team signed helmets, posters and the jerseys won by the Netherlands National Team.

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A note from The Inside Pitch editor
Codi Warren

Hello and welcome to the October 2012 edition of The Inside Pitch, the official newsletter of the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America.

In less than a month we will head to Dallas for the 81st Annual Council Meeting. I’m really looking forward to attending my first-ever Council Meeting and getting to know all our of Council Members from across the U.S.

We have some great things lined up for this year’s meeting in Dallas. Our Trade Show has over 80 exhibitors, including equipment suppliers, our sponsors and cities who hope to host ASA events in the upcoming years. It’s a great chance for your association to learn about new opportunities that are available for you. We also will be honoring a variety of individuals and associations at the Awards Luncheon, presented by Wilson Sporting Goods.

I hope that you find time to touch base with me or Julie Bartel, our Director of Marketing and Communications, while down in Dallas. Whether to chat or discuss your opinions and thoughts regarding our marketing and communications efforts, we are interested in hearing how we can help you or your association in 2013.

Remember, if you would like to submit a news item or photo for the December issue of the Inside Pitch, please send me an electronic copy by December 15.

Thank you all for your continued support! Hope to see you all in Dallas!

ASA Hall of Fame Complex hosted Police Athletic League Baseball Camp

The ASA Hall of Fame Complex hosted the Police Athletic League (PAL) Baseball Camp on Tuesday, October 23. With 190 youth in attendance, the action kicked off at 9 a.m. and continued throughout the day with the closing ceremony held at 2 p.m. PAL athletes competed in games as well as individual competitions throughout the event.

“I’m really happy that we had the opportunity to open up our facility for this wonderful group to enjoy,” said ASA/USA Softball Executive Director Ron Radigonda. “The Police Athletic League offers kids in our community the ability to participate in fun and safe activities while developing bonds that these children may not experience elsewhere.”

The games kicked off at 9 a.m. and took place on the stadium field. Click here for more information on the Oklahoma City Police Athletic League.

Sign up for the Nov. 30-Dec. 2 USA Softball National Coaching School

Hosted by the Southern California chapter of the ASA, the Cypress, Calif. school is open to the first 275 registering participants. Registration is $225 per-coach but those who have their applications postmarked by Nov. 1 will receive an early bird rate of $200.

A special room rate of $89 per-night plus tax is available at the Courtyard by Marriott, 5865 Katella Ave. in Cypress but space is limited. To book a room, call 800-321-2211. Mention USA-ASA National Coaching School when booking to receive the special rate.
Being a family member of Team USA has its benefits.
Take advantage of partnership travel discounts.

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United has flown Team USA for over 30 years, and we strive to be the airline of choice for Olympic family members as well. That’s why we offer discounted fares for USOC/NGB associated events. Visit united.com/USOC to book your flight, or to learn more.
who played the U.S. in the “Pink Out” game.

Pink items worn and used by USA athletes throughout the past four years are permanently on display at the National Softball Hall of Fame and Museum, located at 2801 N.E. 50th Street in Oklahoma City. For photos from the event, visit ASA/USA Softball’s Facebook page.

For more information on the Susan G. Komen for the Cure® of Central and Western Oklahoma, visit www.komencentralwesternok.org.

**M.ASASoftball.com can do that?!**

In June, ASA/USA Softball launched a mobile version of their website, ASASoftball.com. The mobile website, which was created to keep up with the increase in mobile surfing, is targeted to users who are at the softball field and will target relevant material that users may need. Under seven main categories that pertain to ASA Softball, users can quickly access information they may need during, before or after a game. Each month, the Inside Pitch will take an in-depth look at a specific question or search query and where on M.ASASoftball.com you can find the answers.

**How can I find out who is a business partner or sponsor of ASA/USA Softball?**
- On the homepage, you will go to Partners. The next screen will show you a listing of all of our sponsors and suppliers. They are also in alphabetical order!

**I need to know who the At-Large Player Rep is for the Florida ASA. Where on this mobile site can I get that information?**
- You’d find this information by clicking on Contact Us on the home page. Once you’ve navigated to the next page, scroll down until you find Florida ASA. Click on that and you’ll be able to see all the association contacts. You’ll see that Wayne Funderburke is the At-Large Player Rep, and all of his contact info is listed.

**Is there a quicker way to navigate back to the home page rather than clicking the back button?**
- Yes there is! You’ll notice at the upper left of the screen that there is an ASA/USA Softball logo. You can either click on that, or the photo of the house on the upper right. Both of those icons will take you quickly back to the home page.

**I want to purchase tickets to the World Cup of Softball. Can I purchase those on the mobile site?**
- Definitely. On the home page, click on Shop. Here you will see three options, Softball Outlet, Official Gear and ASA Stadium Tickets. Since you wish to purchase tickets, you’ll click on the last one. There you will see a breakdown of available ticket options. Since you want to attend the World Cup of Softball, you’d click on the option. It will redirect you to Softballoutlet.com, which is where you will order your tickets when they become available.

**Is there a way I can read the news items that are up on ASASoftball.com?**
- There is! On the home page, click on headlines. There you will see the most recent 20 headlines from ASASoftball.com. Then, you’d just click on whichever story you’d like to read!

Have a questions about M.ASASoftball.com that you want answered? Submit your questions to Codi Warren at cwarren@softball.org by the 15th of every month and it can be featured in the next issue of the Inside Pitch.
Let our team help you insure your teams!

**THREE EASY WAYS TO INSURE SOFTBALL:**

1. Contact your ASA Commissioner  
   Visit www.ASASoftball.com for contact info

2. Contact Bollinger Sports—ASA Department  
   Ph: 800-526-1379 • ASAInfo@BollingerInsurance.com

3. Visit the ASA Insurance & Risk Management Website  
   www.BollingerASA.com

Bollinger and ASA —  
Teaming up together for the 49th year!
ASA/USA Softball announced recently that 11 ASA/USA Softball National Umpire Schools, including an Advanced National Umpire School for fast pitch, will be held Dec. 2012 through June 2013. The schools will take place in 10 different states: California, Indiana, New Jersey, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas and Utah.

Each ASA National Umpire School is run by a team of National Umpire staff members, who serve as the clinicians. With a ratio of at least one clinician per 25-30 students, each participant will receive hands-on personal instruction on both fast pitch and slow pitch umpiring including base and plate mechanics. At the fast pitch Advanced Umpire School, instruction is focused on fast pitch only. The ratio is also one instructor per 10 students for the two Advanced Umpire Schools.

Registration fees for National Umpire Schools vary by location. To register for an upcoming National Umpire School or an Advanced Umpire School, please contact the school coordinator listed on the National Umpire School section of www.asasoftball.com. NOTE: Only certain schools are currently open for registration.

### 2012-13 ASA/USA Softball National Umpire Schools

**December 7-9, 2012**
Region 7
Killeen, Texas

**February 1-3, 2013**
Region 9
Zanesville, Ohio

**February 15-17, 2013**
Region 3
Aston, Pa.

**February 22-24, 2013**
Region 14
Clovis, Calif.

**March 8-10, 2013**
Region 2
Parsippany, N.J.

**March 15-17, 2013**
Region 10
Crawfordsville, Ind.

**March 15-17, 2013**
Region 15
Portland, Ore.

**March 22-24, 2013**
Region 6
Oklahoma City, Okla.

**April 11-13, 2013**
Region 13
Clinton, Utah

**April 19-21, 2013**
Region 11
Sioux Falls, S.D.

**June 11-16, 2013**
Region 14
Lancaster, Calif.

Fast Pitch Advanced Camp

### Anthony Gowell appointed as Maine ASA/USA Softball Commissioner

ASA/USA Softball announced this month that Anthony Gowell of Sabattus, Maine, has been appointed the commissioner for Maine ASA. He will assume his responsibilities starting January 1, 2013 following the retirement of current Maine ASA Commissioner Bill Cary.

“I am ecstatic taking this new position with ASA/USA Softball,” said Gowell. “I look forward to dealing with the ASA National Office, their staff and the local adult and Junior Olympic (JO) teams in Maine.”

Gowell began his involvement with ASA/USA Softball 13 years ago when he first started officiating. Four years ago, he took on an administrative role when he became the District 9 commissioner for the Maine ASA. He has also held various local positions, including serving as the local adult and JO assignor for ASA sanctioned leagues. During his time with ASA/USA Softball, Gowell has attended two ASA National Umpire Schools, six ASA National Tournaments and numerous State championships. With his new appointment, Gowell looks forward to continuing the success of both the Adult and Junior Olympic (JO) programs for the Maine ASA.

Gowell currently works as a supervisor and technician for Atlantic Pest Solutions. Prior to this position, Gowell worked at Bath Iron Works, a company that specializes in the design, building and support of naval combatants for the U.S. Navy, for seven years as a supervisor. Preceding his work at Bath Iron Works, Gowell also was employed with a construction company from Massachusetts as a labor foreman.

Gowell graduated with honors from Oak Hill High School in Wales, Maine.
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Far from the stadium lights and the roar of the crowd come the moments when youth sports matters. These opportunities help form bonds that enrich the game and enhance the lives and life skills of young players. That's why Liberty Mutual Insurance and our partners are proud to bring you the Responsible Sports™ program – offering educational resources, training tips and teaching tools for youth sports parents and coaches, plus coaching awards and valuable community grants.

Memorable youth sports moments are waiting for you. Visit ResponsibleSports.com/Softball today.

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Responsibility. What's your policy®

This Fall 15 teams will earn a $2,500 grant. Go to ResponsibleSports.com/Softball to learn more.
The Fall Community Grant period is quickly coming to a close on November 30, 2012. Have you registered your team or organization? It’s not too late - visit the Fall Community Grant details page for more information on how to get started.

Wondering how your competition is doing – check out the Fall Community Grant Leaderboard.

You can do a lot in one month to rally parents and coaches to read the Responsible Sports Parenting Guide or Responsible Sports Coaching Guide, take the quiz and credit the quiz to your organization. One credited quiz equals one point. To earn one of the fifteen grants your organization needs to be one of the top five in total points in their division by November 30th.

Get started today!

Artifact of the Month!

Since softball has such a rich and vast history, we want to share with you some of the amazing artifacts we have deep within our collections. Stay tuned every month for a glimpse into our archives!

A photo taken during the Opening Ceremony of the 1993 ISF Junior Men’s World Championship, which were held in Auckland, New Zealand. The Junior Men’s Team went 4-8 during the tournament.
Hall of Famer Max Wilkes passes away

Max E. Wilkes, the Phenix City councilman known for his decades of officiating youth sports and serving many roles in city government, died October 18 at a Columbus hospital. He was 73.

Wilkes' death surprised friends and city officials, many of whom crowded a waiting area at St. Francis Hospital after learning he'd been stricken by an apparent aneurysm.

Mayor Sonny Coulter, whose decision to retire prompted Wilkes to run for mayor this summer, said it was "real gratifying to know how much people thought of Max," noting the overflow crowd at the hospital. "He always did everything that he did with a great passion and had a great love for the entire community, as evidenced by his contributions," Coulter said.

Councilman Jimmy Wetzel remembered his longtime friend as a "kind and gentle man" who applied his refereeing skills to consensus building in city government.

"Max has made many great contributions to the city of Phenix City," Wetzel said. "He was very easy to do business with."

Jim Lynn, a local writer and political observer, said Wilkes was friends with "everybody in town."

"He was the only person in Phenix City who was friends with both Sonny Coulter and Jimmy Wetzel at the same time," Lynn said.

Wilkes was born Sept. 5, 1939, in Barbour County to the late Alto Wilkes and Stella Baker Wilkes. A native of Clio, Ala., Wilkes' family moved to Phenix City when he was in the fourth grade.

The move opened up a new opportunity to sports that Wilkes embraced at Central High, playing football, basketball, baseball and track. Some two years out of high school, he began coaching a youth football team, a passion he continued for some 25 years.

"Watching those 11- and 12-year-olds go on and excel and be citizens was quite rewarding," Wilkes said earlier this year.

Wilkes began officiating high school football in 1963 and remained active until recently. He also had served as the booking agent for the Phenix City Football Officials' Association the past 25 years.

Wilkes applied for his first position with the city in the late 1970s, and began working under former Mayor George E. H. Chard in the city's first council-manager form of government. He was hired as clerk of municipal court and served in that capacity alone for 18 years.

He assumed the additional duties of administrative assistant to the city manager in January 1996 and served briefly as the acting city clerk in 2001. He became interim city manager in January 2003 and held that position for about two years.

Wilkes was elected in August 2008 without opposition to the city's north side District 1 seat on City Council. About a year ago, Wilkes announced that he intended to run for mayor. Wilkes finished second in the four-man contest.

Wilkes is survived by his wife of 52 years, Malinda Weaver Wilkes, daughter Allison Wilkes Chandler and son M. Fletcher Wilkes among other family members.

Funeral services were scheduled for 11 a.m. on October 22 at Lakewood Baptist Church, where Wilkes was a member.
Four inducted into South Carolina ASA Hall of Fame

The South Carolina ASA inducted four members into the South Carolina ASA Hall of Fame in a ceremony held at Woodfin Ridge this past month: Theodore Williams (Spartanburg, S.C.), Steve Taylor (Inman, S.C.), Claude Thomason (Spartanburg, S.C.) and Jim Jackson (Seneca, S.C.).

Williams played 30 years of ASA Men’s Major Fast Pitch and played a variety of positions, except catcher. He played in over 900 games, pitching in over 600 games. He retired in 1994 with a .302 batting average.

Thomason played Men’s Major Fast Pitch for over 35 years. He played in more than 1,200 games, including 625 as pitcher. He finished with a .321 batting average. Thomason also played in the 1995 S.C. State Championship.

Taylor, a Men’s Modified player, also umpired for the ASA for 23 years. He was also a member of the National Indicator Fraternity.

Jackson was a veteran of slow and fast pitch leagues for more than 28 years, playing in more than 1,000 games with a career batting average of .365.

Central California ASA holds annual meeting

The Central California ASA held its annual meeting October 20-21 at the Cambria Pines Lodge in Cambria, California. During the meeting, a variety of honors were awarded, including association championships and the induction of 12 new members into the Central California ASA Hall of Fame. Five players, two sponsors, two commissioners, one umpire, one coach and one manager make up the Class of 2012, bringing the total number of people honored to 108.

Those awarded at the annual meeting were:

Membership Awards
Twenty-five years: Lompoc Girls Softball, Santa Maria Girls Softball, City of Arroyo Grande Rec

Staff Service Recognition
Five years: Manny Alderete and Glenn Campbell
Ten years: Jaime Blanco and Jack Mettier
Fifteen years: Leah Forte
Twenty-five years: Bob Creamer

Exceptional Achievement
• Top Increase in Umpire Registrations - Santa Barbara County (UIC Glen Campbell)
• Top Increase in Adult Rec Team Registrations - Tulare County (County Commissioner Norm Schendel)
• No. 1 Youth Group in Team Registrations - CUSD Clovis GSB (74 teams)

Central California ASA Hall of Fame Class of 2012 is: Terry McCormick (Commissioner), Iren Lorenzo Hodge (Manager), Dave Carreiro (Coach), Shawna Robinson (Female Player), Lindsay Campana (Female Pitcher), Tom McCormick (Male Player), Forrest Dean (Male Pitcher), Don Brazell (Slow Pitch Player), Arnie Rose (Umpire), Shakey’s Pizza (Sponsor), Mike D’Amato (Sponsor) and Rod Valine (Special Commissioner Award).

October 2012 THE INSIDE PITCH Page 11
2012 USA SOFTBALL NATIONAL COACHING SCHOOL

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Saturday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday, 8-11 a.m.

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$225 PER-COACH
$200 if postmarked by November 1, 2012
Limited to 275 participants

INSTRUCTIONAL TOPICS INCLUDE
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INSTRUCTORS INCLUDE
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USA Softball Director of Coaching Education and University of Arizona Head Coach

Ken Eriksen
USA Softball Women’s National Team Head Coach and University of South Florida Head Coach

Mike White
USA Softball Women’s National Team Assistant Coach and University of Oregon Head Coach

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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
Play for a Cure Oregon© continues to raise money and awareness

Now in its eleventh year, Play for a Cure Oregon© is an annual non-professional adult softball tournament held at the Wallace Marine Park Sports Complex in Salem, Oregon. This year, recreational teams pledged their support to this great cause by playing games on August 17-19, 2012.

The Reach for the Stars-Play for a Cure Oregon© Fundraiser tournament had 48, 12B, 14B, and, for the first time 16B teams. They raised $6,232. The Stars ‘n’ Stripes Forever Play for a Cure Oregon© Fundraiser tournament had a combined 29 12A, 14A, and 16A teams. They raised $2,958. During the ASA Girls’ 12B Fast Pitch Western Nationals they hosted skills contest events, and continued selling tickets for the drawing items to keep raising more money. They were also surprised with a basket put together by the Burlingame Flames and University of California softball team. A Silent Auction was held with a California Pink game jersey personalized for the winner. With these added items, the ASA Girls’ 12B Fast Pitch Western Nationals helped bring in $3,348 bringing the grand total raised to $14,640.

For more information on Play for a Cure Oregon© visit www.softballcityusa.com.
Avoid Warranty Pitfalls

By Musco Lighting

Know what to look for when purchasing a sports-lighting system

When evaluating the purchase of a quality sports-lighting system that will perform to your expectations over the next 20 to 30 years, don’t overlook the importance of accountability from your supplier. If you expect a system to provide trouble-free lighting you should require that your equipment supplier meets a set of warranty criteria, which includes a written guarantee, a proven commitment to maintenance, and support after the sale.

Seek accountability

Partnering with a sports lighting manufacturer that stands behind their products with good service will make a substantial difference in your organization’s long-term satisfaction. You are making the investment; therefore you are in position to develop the criteria that will measure each manufacturer, especially in a competitive bid process. Following three key guidelines will help establish a supplier’s level of commitment:

1. Ask for a written guarantee. Manufacturers can provide a written performance guarantee that your entire system from the foundation to the light fixtures - will meet the specifications you established. Receiving this guarantee from a single source can save you the headache of sorting out responsibility among multiple manufacturers or separate installation and service contractors should a problem arise.

2. Compare warranties. The warranty reflects a manufacturer’s confidence in their product. Some manufacturers’ warranties include routine maintenance and provide longer coverage based on their confidence in their product’s performance.

3. Evaluate the service reputation. Ask for project references and review the manufacturers’ service track record. Determine if there are dedicated warranty and field service personnel in your area when you need them. Find out if there will be an on-site field performance evaluation after the installation.

Define maintenance

Routine maintenance and unexpected repair costs can really impact a budget if a system is not well designed from an electrical and structural standpoint. Since no one wants the surprise of finding out that their maintenance assumptions were actually exclusions, take the time upfront to define a warranty’s maintenance and repair interval terms. Some critical warranty maintenance factors to consider:

- **Constant light levels** - Specify the actual amount of light you can expect on the field at any given time over the life of the system, who will perform this evaluation and how frequently.

- **Re-aiming** - Look for guaranteed fixture alignment. Over time, lighting can become misaligned, resulting in concern for player safety, less light on the field, and more light where it’s not wanted. Labor and equipment costs to correct this can be significant.

- **Relamping** - It’s more efficient to “group” relamp rather than perform “spot” relamping or replacing lamps as they burn out. To avoid inefficiencies, require group relamping prior to the end of the rated lamp life.

- **Parts and labor** - Comprehensive warranties cover parts and labor for the full life of a system. This is critical since the combined cost of a lamp, fuses, labor and the potential rental of equipment to reach a pole top can easily exceed $200 for a single individual fixture burnout.

**Comprehensive warranty**

The Musco Constant 25 ™ product assurance and warranty program is a foundation-to-pole top approach that provides guaranteed constant light levels and eliminates 100 percent of maintenance costs for the 25-year life of its Green Generation ™ Lighting systems. The program covers all group lamp replacements, spot relamping and labor. Also included in the Musco warranty is Control-Link ™, an automated control and monitoring system which notifies organizations of an outage or other problems and dispatches a maintenance technician.

Demanding accountability from a sports lighting manufacturer should not be difficult or stressful. If you’ve done your homework to establish quantifiable warranty criteria that can be applied to all prospective suppliers, you will have the right tools in place to evaluate your options and make an educated decision. For more information, click here to consult Musco Sports Lighting, a trusted source for energy-efficient outdoor sports-lighting systems and services for more than 30 years.
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Bill Warren Williams passed away in Midland Friday October 26, 2012. He was born on August 22nd, 1935 in Hillsboro, TX to Florence and W.S. Williams. He grew up in Hillsboro, TX and graduated from Hillsboro High School in 1952. He then attended Navarro Junior College. After college Bill met his future wife, Peggy Lamb, and they were married in Wichita Falls, TX on May 21, 1954. They were married for over 58 years. He was preceded in death by his parents and son-in-law, Vicente Villarreal, JR. He is survived by his two children Billy, his wife Kelly Williams, and Julie Villarreal. He is also survived by four grandchildren: Chad Villarreal and his wife Julie; Brandon Williams and his wife Stephanie; Kyle Williams, Greg Williams, and 1 great-grandchild, Cole Villarreal.

In Wichita Falls he worked for the BF Goodrich and Firestone Tire Company. He was transferred by BF Goodrich to Shawnee, OK in 1961 and then transferred to Midland, TX in 1963. He became part owner of Goodrich Service Center in 1969 along with Goodrich Hejl and Dan Fender. Dan and Bill acquired Goodrich Hejl’s interest and later divided the company’s assets. Bill and Peggy changed the name to Bill Williams Tire Center shortly thereafter. The business has grown from a small retail operation to 6 locations in Texas with more than 100 employees.

One of Bill’s lifelong passions was the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) and he was heavily involved since 1970. He donated many hours to growing the sport in Midland and the entire State of Texas. He helped coordinate and host over 20 National ASA Tournaments in Midland and sponsored many teams along the way. Teams sponsored by Bill participated in the National Tournament in 1973, 1977, and 1981. In 1984 the City of Midland named a softball complex in his honor, the Bill Williams Softball Complex.

He was inducted into the Texas ASA Hall of Fame in 2002 and the National ASA Hall of Fame in 2004. He was recently honored with a 40 Years of Service Award from Texas ASA.

Bill was also involved in Midland College athletics. He and John Hendricks were instrumental in building the first dorms on the Midland College campus for athletes in 1983. Bill was also part of the group that founded the Midland College athletic booster club. Bill and his wife Peggy were active supporters of Midland College and attended numerous home and away games over the years.

Bill was elected to the Midland City Council in 1987 and he was very proud to serve his community. He was involved with other members in the planning and construction of the Midland Airport, Scharbauer Sports Complex, and many other civic minded projects.

Family, friends, and community were very important to Bill all his life. The Williams Family would like to thank Brenda Haven and all the caretakers that helped the family caring for Bill over the past two years. Also, they would like to thank Dr. Vogel, Dr. Foster, Manor Park and its staff for all their help over the last few years; they have truly been a blessing.

Donations may be made to:
Midland College Chaparral Athletic Club
3600 N Garfield ST
Midland, TX 79705

or
The National Softball Hall of Fame and Museum
2801 N.E. 50th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73111
Annual Shriners Charity Softball Tournament continues to give back

The eighth annual Shriners Charity Softball Tournament was held July 20-22, 2012 at the Green Valley Sports Complex in Moline, Ill. The tournament, which has teams participating in 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U and 18U, helps to raise money for the local Shriners Children's hospital located in Chicago, Ill. For the past eight years, long-time ASA umpire Franklin Hocker has helped run the event, which he helped to create as a way to give back to ASA Junior Olympic (JO) athletes and the Shriner's hospital.

"Once you get softball in your blood and work with these young adults it stays with you," said Hocker. "When you genuinely care, you just can’t shake it."

The tournament has some unique features that set it apart from other ASA tournaments. For one, each team is given five medallions that they will later hand out to an opposing team. For each game they play, they must decide on an "MVP" on the opposing team who will be awarded the medallion. There is also an overall MVP for each age group, which is decided upon by the coaches. Whoever is deemed the MVP gets a $100 scholarship, a poem written by Frank Hocker, and a customized Build-a-Bear which embodies a Shriner.

Every cent earned at the tournament goes to benefit the Shriner's hospital in Chicago. For the first few years, the funds helped send nurses to an advanced nursing school, which trained them in new and improved ways to take care of handicapped children. In recent years, the funds have gone towards the room and board fees for the parents or guardians of the children at the hospital.

For more information on the tournament, visit www.shrinerscharitysoftball.com.

Central California ASA raises over $15,000 to aid breast cancer awareness

The Central California ASA hosted their second annual Breast Cancer Awareness Tournament October 13-14 in Clovis, Calif. The tournament helps benefit breast cancer awareness and cancer treatment at the Children's Hospital of Central California.

This year, over $15,000 was raised during the tournament, which included all age groups and divisions competing in a four-game guarantee tournament. Forty-nine teams competed, which doubled from the previous years, with the 14U age division having the most with 15. A raffle was also held, including a pink bicycle which was donated by Dick Brown. The umpires of the tournament also donated a portion of their earnings to benefit the cause.
The Central Cal Krush participated in the event.

DETERMINATION RINGS WITH EVERY HIT
The USA Softball Junior Men’s National Team arrived in Parana, Argentina this week to begin their quest for the 2012 International Softball Federation (ISF) IX World Fastpitch Championship Gold the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America and USA Softball announced today. The United States is slated to begin pool play Friday, November 2 against Denmark at 3 pm (CT).

“It was a very long trip, we’re glad to finally be here in Parana and playing softball,” said USA outfielder Dakota Wells. “I think I got about two hours of sleep between the ten hour flight and seven hour bus ride.”

Following their opening game with Denmark, the USA is scheduled to play five other pool-play games: Singapore on November 3, India on November 4, Venezuela on November 5, New Zealand on November 6, and Australia on November 7. The playoffs are scheduled to begin on November 8 with finals on November 10.

Click here for coverage throughout the ISF IX World Fastpitch Championship

In 2008, the most previous ISF Junior Men’s World Championships, the USA finished with a 5-6 record and eighth in the overall standings.

Athletes competing for USA Softball in Parana: Jerlin Rutt (Bernville, Pa), Zach Lach (Frankenuth, Mich.), Austin Tuttle (Payson, Utah), Dakota, Wells (San Luis Obispo, Calif.), Jonathan Lynch (Cape Girardeau, Mo.), Jake Dalton (Lake Crystal, Minn.), Junior Centeno (Salem, Utah), Tyler Johnson (Union, Mo.), Justin Wurtz (New Haven, Mo.), Dylan Elmer (Machesney Park, Ill.), Michael Lewis (Amboy Minn.), Nick Serrato (Corona, Calif.), Jack Rutt (Ephrata, Pa.), Spencer Yackel (Lake Crystal, Minn.), Mauro Olivarria (San Diego, Calif.), Brent Meshke (Lake Crystal, Minn.), Addison Beutler (West Valley, Utah).

Doug Dicey recently sent the National Office a photo he stumbled upon. This photo was taken at the 1990 National Umpire School which was held in Exeter, New Hampshire. Pictured above is the National Umpire School Staff. Notice any familiar faces?
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Journalists hold off Congressional women in the fourth annual Congressional Women’s Softball charity game

In the Fourth Annual Congressional Women’s Softball charity game, members from both sides of the aisle as well as from both the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate came together in a rare election year bipartisan way to play against the Capitol Hill Press Corps. Their effort showcased a game featuring a thrown glove and a flurry of 9 runs in the last two innings that came up short as the journalists held on to a 13-10 win against the Congressional Women. Overall, the event raised nearly $55,000 to benefit the Young Survival Coalition, a group that assists young women who face breast cancer.

This year, to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Title IX law that opened equal opportunities for women to participate in sports, Doctor Dot Richardson and Sue Enquist served as celebrity umpires at first and third base during the game. The celebrity umpires’ storied award-laden softball careers represent how successful women have been playing softball since given the equal opportunity to play sports under the Federal law. Richardson, a two-time softball Olympic gold medalist, hit the first home run in Olympic Softball history which won the gold medal for the 1996 U.S. team. Enquist, UCLA’s first NCAA All-American woman softball player and former head coach who coached a dozen Olympic gold-medal-winning Bruin players, is herself no stranger to championships. Enquist participated in 17 NCAA championship games or series, winning 10 National Championships that included the NCAA’s 1981-82 inaugural year contest.

Maryland-DC ASA Commissioner Jack Mowatt attended the event as well as “pitched” in his support by providing the winning team and MVP trophies, yellow and pink softballs along with assigning ASA Umpires Reese Morgan and Angela Jackson from Maryland to the game. Play-by-play game announcers, NBC’s Andrea Mitchell and Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) announced the action during the game. As the crowd of approximately a thousand spectators cheered, Richardson and Enquist were among those who threw out the ceremonial first pitch, joining previous years’ noted hurlers such as Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor and ABC News reporter Cokie Roberts.

MSNBC’s Luke Russert and Buzzfeed Bureau Chief John Stanton stood near the dugout among other nationally known media celebrities who showed their support by attending the charity event. U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis and Senator Chuck Shumer (D-NY) were among the bipartisan political crowd. Leaders from both parties also attended the game, including House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) and Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.). A number of others included Reps. Jan Schakowsky (D-Ill.), Dennis Kuchinich (D-Ohio) whose daughter Jackie plays for the reporters, Democratic Caucus Leader John Larsen (D-Conn.), House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-Va.) and Minority Whip Steny Hoyer (D-Maryland). Longtime friends Hoyer and Mowatt stood behind home plate “catching” up on the thrown glove rule’s intricacies.

Typical of our unpredictable election cycle this year on the campaign trail, the game was full of bizarre and unique events on the field. At the top of the first inning, the Congressional Women executed a double play to thwart the Media Team from scoring and then jumped off with a run in the bottom of the frame. The journalists broke onto the scoreboard with 3 runs in the top of the second when CNN’s Brianna Keilar walked — the first of her 3 walks in 3 at bats for the day — moved to third base on a single by Jill Jackson of CBS News, and then scored when the congressional shortstop, Rep. Kathy Castor, tossed her glove at a base hit by Emmarie Huetteman of the NY Times who was then awarded third base. She scored on a hit by ABC News reporter Christina Capatides. Eventually, when Roll Call’s Meredith Shiner walked, who also got a base on balls 3 times in 3 at bats for the press corps team, the reporter’s lead ballooned to a score of 11-1 going into the bottom of the sixth inning.

Relief pitcher Rep. Grace Napolitano (D-Calif.), who played fast pitch softball from 1952-54 and boasts about her 5 children, 14 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren, pitched a shutout inning and struck out her final two batters to help the congressional women mount their comeback. The Congressional Women then rallied in the bottom of the 6th inning by scoring 5 runs, partly through 3 consecutive bases-loaded RBI walks of their own. Yet although they eventually scored a total flurry of 9 runs in the last two innings, the congressional team could not quite overcome the media team who further scored 2 insurance runs in their half of the last inning. In all, the journalists won by the final score of 13-10.

It was the second win for the Press Corps team, who hold a 2-1 all-time record against the Congressional Women. In 2010, CNN's Senior Congressional Correspondent Dana Bash and Co-Captain Rep. Wasserman-Schultz conceived the idea of matching the annual game between teams of congressional members and journalists. Originally at the inaugural game in 2009, the Congressional Members played against a team consisting of professional women who joined forces from the Democratic National Committee and Republican National Committee staff ranks. The rivalry has become intense in that short time.

Regardless of how the political winds blow on November’s Election Day, the Congressional Women and Press Corps squads will compete again next year to benefit cancer survivors in what has become an institutional struggle for softball bragging rights on Capitol Hill. Even now, during the Washington softball off-season filled with political drama, the charity game’s players continue to find time to brag about past hits, runs, and thrown gloves with an eye on next summer’s clash that will further benefit young women cancer survivors. In four years, the game raised a total of nearly $165,000 for young women to overcome cancer.
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References

ASA Official Portable Fence; NCAA Women’s Fastpitch “World Series” Division I, II & III Championships Series; City of Woodland, City of Santa Maria, Salem VA, etc.

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